

# CAMP ZAP

What started out as a picnic for Woodlake school children seven years ago has grown into a powerful tool in educating youth from all over Tulare County on the importance of staying in school, making positive choices and respecting their parents and other authority figures.



Woodlake Chief of Police John Zapalac invites children of all ages to his ranch located in the back foothills in Lemon Cove. Children get to spend a weekend at Camp Zap experiencing camping, horseback riding, hiking, playing games such as horseshoes and volleyball and enjoying other arts & crafts. There is always a guest speaker who talks with the children about “choices.” How the choices they make now, will impact their life later on. Speakers range from ex-gang members to Juvenile Court Judges.

“I think every child should experience the joy of camping”, says Chief Zapalac.

Chief Zapalac started reaching out to other school districts 2 years ago. Children from Woodlake, Lindsay, Exeter, Farmersville and Ivanhoe all get together and meet other children from different communities. “The relationships we build with the kids at a young age help prevent problems when they are in high school.”

*Volunteers from the Woodlake Rotary Club, the Kiwanis Club, the YMCA, Americorp, the Woodlake Police Department, the Woodlake Explorers and others get together 4 times a year for Camp Zap. The children meet at the Woodlake Police Department on Saturday at 9 am where they board the Woodlake Explorer bus to Camp Zap in Lemon Cove. They are fed lunch and dinner on Saturday and then breakfast on Sunday. They leave Camp Zap at noon on Sunday and are dropped off at the WPD.*



There is a \$5.00 fee per child to cover the cost of meals. Children are asked to bring a sleeping bag, snacks and an extra change of clothes. There are bunk rooms for sleeping (separated for boys and girls). When the weather is nice, most children choose to bring their tents and sleep outdoors under the stars.

*Parents are always welcome and encouraged to spend the day or the whole weekend with their children at Camp Zap.*

**CAMP ZAP  
25600 AVE 324  
LEMON COVE**

**For more information,  
call the Woodlake Police  
Department  
559-564-3346**